As gardeners do with ordure hide those roots
That shall first spring, and be most delicate.

DAU. Well, 'tis not so, my lord high constable,
But though we think it so, it is no matter:
In cases of defence, 'tis best to weigh
The enemy more mighty than he seems,
So the proportions of defence are filFd;

two parts of Henry IV. for it might have been so managed as to have given new beauties to the character of Hal, and great improvements to the plot. And with regard to these matters, Shakspeare generally tells us all he knew, and as soon as he knew it,

WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton, as usual, appears to me to refine too much. I believe, Shakspeare meant no more than that Henry, in his external appearance, was like the elder Brutus, wild and giddy, while in fact his understanding was good.

Our author's meaning is sufficiently explained by the following lines in The Rape of Lucrece, 1594?:

* *Brutus*, who pluck'd the knife from Lucrece' side,
Seeing such emulation in their woe,
Began to *clothe his wit* in state and pride,
Burying in Lucrece* wound *his folly show,*
He with the Romans was esteemed so,
As silly-jeering idiots are with kings,
For sportive words, and uttering foolish things.
But now he throws that *shallow habit* by,
Wherein deep policy did him disguise;
And arm'd his long-hid wits advisedly,
To check the tears in Colatinus eyes.*'

Thomas Otterbourne, and the translator of Titus Livius, indeed, say, that Henry the Fourth, in his latter days, was jealous of his son, and apprehended that he would attempt to depose him: to remove which suspicion, the prince is said (from the relation of an earl of Onnond, who was an eye witness of the fact,) to have gone with a great party of his friends to his father, in the twelfth year of his reign, and to have presented him with a dagger, which he desired the king to plunge into his breast, if he still entertained any doubts of his loyalty: but, I believe, it is no where said, that he threw himself into the company of dissolute persons to avoid giving umbrage to his father, or betook himself to irregular courses with a political view of quieting his suspicions. MALONE.

The best comment on this passage will be found in F. Henry's

soliloquy in the first part of Henry the IV. vol xvi. p. 206.

BOSWELL.